changed his mind and requested to restore the telepohne (not physically) and keep in safe custody with restrospective effect from 11.10.1999.

(iii) Telephone No. 3794046 was kept under safe custody for six months from 11.10.1999 to 10.04.2000 and thereafter allotted to the other party on 26.06.2000.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

957. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of new post offices are proposed *to* be opened in Orissa during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a target of opening of 8 Branch Post Offices in Other Area, 2 Branch Post Offices in Tribal and 2 Sub-Post Offices in Other Area in Orissa during the current financial year. Opening of new post offices is subject to sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance,

Effect on DTS due to corporatization

958. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government desire to corporatize the Department of Telecom Services by 1st October, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it will adversely effect unprofitable investment like Rural Telecom Services and village Telephone because the profit of DTS would be heavily reduced due to payment of corporate tax licence fee and dividend to share holders etc;

(c) whether it would also entail higher salary to staff as well as perks; and